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**Abstract**

**[0041]** A longitudinal plunging unit for the transmission of torque in a drive assembly. It comprises a profiled sleeve (21) with circumferentially distributed, longitudinally extending first ball grooves (22); a profiled journal (11) with circumferentially distributed, longitudinally extending second ball grooves (12); balls (31) which are arranged in groups of pairs of first and second ball grooves (12, 22); a ball cage (41) which is arranged between the profiled sleeve (21) and the profiled journal (11) and fixes the balls (31) in their positions relative to one another; and a spring mechanism (51) which is supported on at least one axial stop (42, 43) and designed in such a way that, in an unloaded condition, the ball cage (42) is held at a distance from the at least one axial stop (42, 43).